

DDI-6449-82

4 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

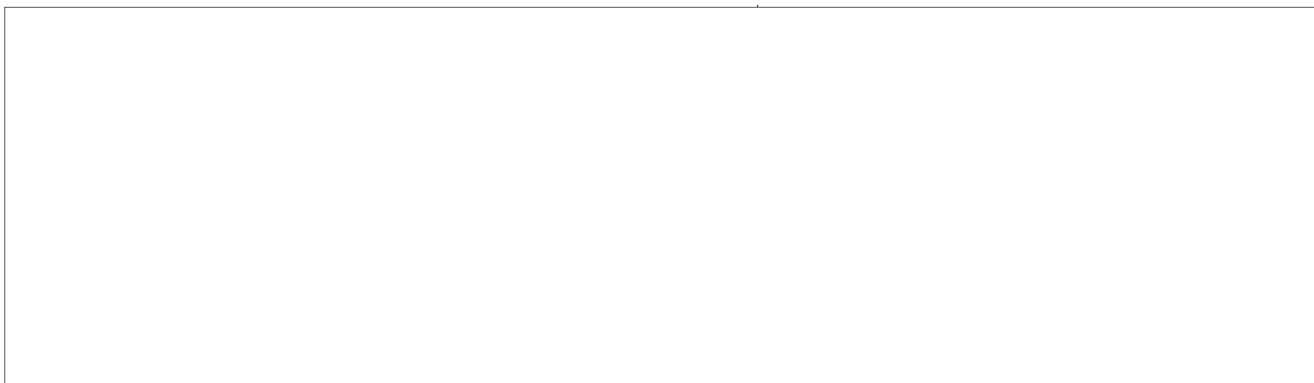
SUBJECT : Suriname: The Growing Danger

1. Bouterse's need to consolidate his power suggests that he will move Suriname steadily leftward and into the Cuban orbit:

a. Bouterse reportedly visited Cuba secretly in early May 1982 requesting military assistance. CIA does not believe any major arms shipments have been made, mostly because Bouterse is concerned this would arouse strong domestic protests.

b. Bouterse, however, did likely receive a small number of arms during his Cuban visit and checked on four military personnel now receiving training in Cuba.

c. In early June 1982, the Suriname Foreign Minister, Naarendorp, also visited Cuba; met with Castro; and signed economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreements with the Cubans.



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2. Bouterse is vulnerable:

a. March 1982 coup attempt against him by military personnel trying to prevent a pro-Cuban policy almost succeeded.

b. Press freedom now is very limited; prospects for elections very dim.

c. Bouterse much influenced by Grenada's Maurice Bishop--sees him as a model and fellow revolutionary leader (who made his revolution work by relying on the Cubans).

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d. Bouterse also has created a People's Militia that appears modeled after the Cubans. But, the People's Militia is not yet large enough to contain or defeat the army.

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Constantine C. Menges

cc: DDCI  
C/NIC  
C/LAD/DDO